

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated August 23, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chen et al. (U.S. patent application no. 2002/0154682, hereinafter referred to as “Chen”). The Examiner allowed claims 15 and 16. The rejections are traversed and reconsideration is hereby respectfully requested.

The applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 15 and 16.

The Examiner rejected claims 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chen. The applicants note that the filing date of Chen is March 8, 2001. The pending application is a divisional of U.S. application serial no. 09/545,125, filed April 7, 2000, and priority thereto was claimed in a Preliminary Amendment that accompanied the filing of this application. Therefore, the priority date of the pending application, that is, April 7, 2000, predates the filing date of Chen, that is, March 8, 2001, and Chen may not be properly cited as §102(b) art against the pending application. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §102(b) rejection of claims 11-14 as being anticipated by Chen and that claims 11-14 may now be passed to allowance.

As the applicants have overcome all substantive objections and rejections given by the Examiner and have complied with all requests properly presented by the Examiner, the applicants contend that this Amendment, with the above discussion, overcomes the Examiner’s objections to and rejections of the pending claims. Therefore, the applicants respectfully solicit allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter.

Respectfully submitted,
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